

# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Meeting May 21, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2003, scheduled for 9:30 a.m., in the Town of Truckee Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, California

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Drew Bedwell, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports:

Executive Director Landon reported that in next month's agenda, staff will request adjustments in NCTC's Administration and Planning Fund #327 related to indirect costs on budget line items such as mileage, parking, utilities, and office operations.

2. Correspondence:

A. Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) - Won the California Transportation Foundation's 2003 *Organization of the Year* TRANNY Award.

Executive Director Landon stated the PCTPA received the TRANNY Award in recognition of their financing strategy for their Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and that he would be attending the ceremonial dinner for PCTPA's receipt of this award.

B. Email from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, National Association of Counties, and National Association of Development Organizations - FHWA-FTA rural planning rule regarding the consultation process.

Executive Director Landon stated that a year ago, NCTC received information from the National Association of Development Organizations, and through involvement with them and other rural agencies making recommendations, a final rule was adopted by the federal government that gives rural transportation planning agencies some standing with the federal government.

I. Letter from Nevada County DOTS to NCTC - Request that a representative and alternate be selected to participate on the Highway 49 Gateway Monument Planning Committee.

Executive Director Landon stated the Nevada County Board of Supervisors had formally established a steering committee for the Highway 49 Gateway Monument project and was requesting the Commission to select a representative to participate on the committee. It was the consensus of the Commission that Commissioner Krage be the delegate and Mr. Landon be the alternate.

\*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at 9:40 a.m.

3. Executive Director's Report:

3.1 Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) Program Update

Executive Director Landon stated that staff had been working with the City of Grass Valley in a cooperative effort to establish the best method for utilizing the mitigation fee funds and for forecasting the ability to defray the costs of future projects. He had received strong support from the development community in the update of the mitigation fee program. It appeared that the fees would generate sufficient funds to defray the expenses of all of the capital improvements on the list. Mr. Landon will present an update of the mitigation fee program at the next Commission meeting.

3.2 I-80/SR 89 Roundabouts

Executive Director Landon stated that Bickett Engineering had submitted the draft Concept Approval Report to the Town of Truckee and Caltrans and the project was moving forward. He also noted that Mr. Brannon had received a Caltrans award for facilitating this project.

3.3 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Updates

Executive Director Landon stated that a date had been set to do a workshop in western Nevada County to present the western Nevada County Transit Development Plan. He noted that the Town of Truckee had awarded a contract to Aztec Transportation Services for transit services, and the Commission's consultant, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. would now be able to incorporate new data into the draft eastern Nevada County Transit Development Plan.

3.4 Reno Rail Study

Executive Director Landon stated that the Reno-Auburn Rail Feasibility Study was moving ahead. Ridership projections were being reviewed to make sure the number of passenger trains needed could be coordinated with the schedules of freight trains. The outcome of that information should be known in August or September.

3.5 Executive Director's Vacation Schedule

Executive Director Landon stated that he planned to take his vacation from June 23<sup>rd</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup> and recommended that the Commission cancel the July meeting unless there were key items to be addressed. If that were the case, he asked that the agenda be small to facilitate staff being able to produce it in his absence. Mr. Landon asked for the Commission's approval of his requests.

Commissioner Krage moved to accept Mr. Landon's recommendation not to have a July Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting unless some event occurred which would necessitate a short agenda. Commissioner Bedwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager, reviewed his written report on the status of projects in Nevada County. The following is a synopsis of some of the discussed projects:

- Nevada 20 Safety Realignment and Widening: Environmental submittals are complete. Due to shortages in staff, the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED) completion date has slipped to July 2004. The current schedule for construction is March 2006, but may slip to June 2006 or later.
- Dorsey Drive Interchange: The Dorsey Drive interchange is on schedule. The Caltrans traffic modeling division completed their micro-modeling of the Idaho Maryland/East Main weave and determined that, with or without the Dorsey Drive interchange, the weave would still operate pretty much at the same level. This determination means that Caltrans does not need to expand the study area or examine the weave as part of this interchange. In the future, the weave will need to be considered as a separate project. Mr. Landon noted that all the efforts to adjust and update the NCTC traffic model provided important information to help Caltrans make the decision with regard to the weave. Mr. Brannon stated that more and more projects are affected by resource shortages and that letters of support for this project would help him keep it fully scheduled, fully resourced, and moving forward. Commissioner Stevens asked Mr. Landon to write a letter of support and suggested that Grass Valley and Nevada City do one as well.
- Gold Flat Road Roundabout: Due to staff shortages, the PA/ED schedule has been pushed back to January 2004, and construction to July 2004. Public workshops will be held possibly in the fall of this year.
- Left Turn Lanes at Indian Flat and Newtown Roads: Due to staff shortages, construction has been pushed back to spring 2004.
- Widening of SR 49 from Wolf/Combie to Grass Valley: Mr. Brannon stated that there will be ongoing discussions with the County regarding frontage road ownership. Commissioner Krage asked if it was possible to learn from other counties who have done a state highway upgrade and have gone through ownership issues of side roads. He stated he was concerned that this process in determining ownership could possibly hold things up in terms of the overall improvement of Highway 49. Mr. Brannon stated he could look for an example of a similar type of upgrade and see what was done. A Commission discussion ensued regarding ownership of roads.

Mr. Brannon stated that the majority of the work on this project, starting in July 2003 through June 2004, would be environmental; however, there would be some mapping and preliminary design that would occur. He stated he was having difficulty keeping this project staffed because technically, it is an "unfunded" project. Once the PA/ED is completed for the entire corridor, there will be \$16 million dollars remaining to be programmed for a section of development along SR 49. Mr. Brannon asked that letters of support for this project be submitted, requesting that appropriate staff be kept on

board to keep the project moving forward and on schedule. Mr. Landon stated it would be well to remind Caltrans that completion of this project will impact future STIP cycles, and if this project slips, it will negatively impact the ability to construct timely improvements. He stated he would draft a letter for the Commission's review for the next meeting. In response to Commissioner Sutherland's question if a letter from the Board of Supervisors would be helpful, Mr. Brannon was affirmative. She and Commissioner Stevens asked to use Mr. Landon's letter as a template.

- Widen Shoulder from just north of Lime Kiln to Pekolee Drive: Staff shortages are delaying this project, but have not affected the construction schedule. Mapping has been completed and permits to enter property for the environmental study have been done.
- Bear River to Wolf Combie Road: Mr. Brannon stated that the groundbreaking event for this SR 49 widening project was a great success. The Commission's motion to add architectural features to the Bear River Bridge railing will be part of the Contract Change Order (CCO). Commissioner Krage asked that the Caltrans Bridge Engineer, who alerted the Commission to the design features available for the railing of the Bear River Bridge be given a thank you. Mr. Landon responded that his name is Dave Catania and was a member of the design team that designed the award winning Truckee Bypass Bridge. Mr. Brannon discussed with the Commission his handout on the four types of left turn refuge lanes that will be used in the SR 49 project. He noted that all, but the Major Road Four-Way intersection, provided a way for left turning traffic to be sheltered in their move. The possibility of doing a continuous left turn lane located near Streeter Road was discussed. Mr. Rumsey agreed to look into the feasibility of this idea.

#### CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes:

- A. March 19, 2003. *Approved.*
- B. April 16, 2004. *Approved. Commissioner Guerra abstained.*

6. Revised Findings of Apportionments for 2003/04: The State Department of Finance has provided an updated population estimate for Nevada County. In accordance with state statutes, staff has apportioned the estimated revenues to the entities within the jurisdiction of the Nevada County Transportation Commission. *Adopted Resolution 03-09.*

*Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the consent items and was seconded by Commissioner Arnett. Motion passed.*

#### ACTION ITEMS:

7. Allocation Request from Gold Country Telecare for CTSA Funds.

\*Commissioner Stevens exempted herself from participating in this action item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolutions 03-10. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6 to 0.

\*Commissioner Stevens returned to the dais to resume participation in the Commission meeting.

8. Allocation Request from Nevada County: The County of Nevada is requesting an allocation of \$201,635 of Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for transit operations in FY 2002/03.

Mr. Bill Derrick, Manager of Transit Services, explained that this request was to bring the County up to the level of LTF funding that is in the budget for the 2002/03 FY. He was also doing a budget amendment to increase the amount of LTF needed to get through the fiscal year and still leave a carryover balance. His claim for the additional LTF would be presented at the next Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bedwell to adopt Resolution 03-11. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. NCTC Meeting Schedule.

Executive Director Landon stated that at the last Commission meeting, Commissioner Sutherland had requested this item be discussed. Commissioner Sutherland stated that the Commission meeting time conflicted with a council meeting that she was appointed to, the Yuba Watershed Council, and as a supervisor she was trying to focus quite a bit on the County's natural resources and water issues and wanted to be a participant on both the Transportation Commission and Watershed Council. After a Commission discussion ensued, Commissioner Sutherland stated she would arrange to withdraw from the Yuba Watershed Council.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

#### COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Bedwell stated he was responding to an article that had been written in *The Union* newspaper regarding membership of the Commission. He explained that what began as a misunderstanding on his part with regard to Commission At-Large membership, ended with a Board of Supervisor's resolution which would hopefully solve a lot of problems. Commissioner Bedwell stated that as a result of the resolution, effective the first of the year, At-Large positions on the Commission would consist of two people. The first person would be from the disabled and/or elderly community and the second person would represent the technical aspect. The Board of Supervisors would make the decision from the applicants that are presented.

Commissioner Susman thanked Commissioner Bedwell for his clarification and explained that the issue was in regards with a change of Commission At-Large members serving at the pleasure of the board as opposed to having limited terms. He stated he was unclear on what the intent was for a technical representative. Commissioner Bedwell responded that the definition of the participants hadn't been made. What quantified disabled and/or elderly still had to be defined, but that the technical position was a person from any sector of the public.

Commissioner Sutherland stated that the County was revamping all of the Committees and the Commissions in the County. It had been a long time since those organizations had been reviewed. This was an administrative housecleaning activity. At the same time many people from the

community have asked to be put on various committees and commissions, so the board decided to not put on term limits, but get terms of office.

Commissioner Stevens stated she hoped the two current At-Large Commission members would reapply in January as they had done a splendid job and their expertise had been invaluable over the years. She stated she would be greatly saddened, if for some reason, they did not get put back on the Commission.

Commissioner Arnett stated that the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad and Transportation Museum and Interpretive Center had its grand opening last weekend and that it was a smashing success. The museum's regular summer hours are Friday through Tuesday from 10 to 5 and closed Wednesday and Thursday. However, if a group wanted to book a time, they could possibly be open by appointment. He stated that a large portion of the funding from the museum came from state and federal funds that the Commission allocated, and that he wanted to say a big "thank you" because without the Commission, the museum would still be in a dream state.

#### SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada City Council Chambers.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman  
Nevada County Transportation Commission